

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 02:01:08 1995
Date: Fri, 20 Jan 1995 22:22:26 -0600 (CST)
From: Bob Howle <bhowle@freud.inst.com>
Subject: Re: ARRL list
Message-Id: <Pine.SOL.3.90.950120221735.24235A-100000@freud>

Preston -

To subscribe to the arrl list - send a e-mail message to:
listserv@netcom.com - in the body of the message type as follows -
"subscribe wlaw-list" followed by *your* e-mail address -

I subscribed last week and started getting stuff from the League the next day.

gud luck / Bob / WA4ZID

On Fri, 20 Jan 1995 PDouglas12@aol.com wrote:

> Would someone please post how to subscribe to the ARRL bulletins list? I saw
> this once before, and stupidly didn't store the message. Thanks. Preston
> WJ2V
>

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 14:44:21 1995
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 12:11:30 -0500
Message-Id: <950121121111_1056265@aol.com>
Subject: Band Openings.....

This just in from the ARRL:

Solar activity took an unexpected upward turn last week. The trend is expected to continue, with the solar flux rising to about 92 around January 23, and then dropping to a low around 75 during the first week of February. A recurring coronal hole is currently causing a disturbance. This is expected to quiet down between January 26 through 28, and then create unsettled conditions again around January 30. Another quiet period is expected February 4 through 11, with more unsettled conditions by mid month.

Looks like its time to crank up those QRP rigs and work some new countries, huh gang ?

72, Byron WA8LCZ

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 10:10:16 1995
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 07:25:38 -0500
From: tan@nccmail.attmail.com (Timothy A Nibbe)
Subject: Re: coming to Norcal
Message-Id: <winATT-2.5.1-tan-162>

> SciFi Channel?!?! Looks like TCI is screwing me out of yet ANOTHER cool
> sounding channel! Does everyone else get about ten of those USELESS Home
> Shopping Channels or is it just us in Michigan?

I occasionally watch the Sci-Fi Channel (I know somebody with one of those little DBS dishes), and it is a very cool channel. This morning, TNT has been advertising what looks to be a very good movie that will be shown today on the Sci-Fi Channel.

Wometco cable near Atlanta, GA also "provides" about 10 shopping channels -- and about 15 subscription or pay-per-view channels.

I have been calling the cable company at six month intervals asking when we will be getting the Sci-Fi Channel, each time the answer has been "maybe in about six months".

Tim Nibbe
KD4YFN
tan@nccmail.attmail.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 16:42:11 1995
Date: 21 Jan 95 13:31:54 EST
From: Craig LaBarge <74740.3166@compuserve.com>
Subject: Electronic Keyer
Message-Id: <950121183153_74740.3166_EHB126-1@CompuServe.COM>

Hi gang:

After 24 years as a die-hard straight keyer (both Amateur and Navy), I finally broke down and got an iambic keyer. I just finished building a Curtis chip keyer from the partial kit that Jim Cates offered a few weeks ago. It was a fun little project with only a few very minor snags.

When I first assembled the board and installed it in a small aluminum enclosure, I inadvertently left pin 8 (A/B SELECT) floating instead of connecting it to Vdd for iambic B timing. This produced some really wacky results! For instance, after sending about 4 dashes in a row, the chip would decide to throw in a few extraneous di-dahs. Wow! At first I thought it was me! :-). Tying pin 8 to Vdd straightened that out. I also found a high resistance short (oxymoron?) in my paddles which caused the "dahs" to stick intermittently. That was also easy to fix.

While on the subject of keyers, the 1995 ARRL Handbook appears to contain a few errors in the section on the Curtis chip keyer (Chapter 22, page 22.22 and 22.23). Figure 22.42 shows the typical NPN transistor in the keying circuit. The accompanying text describes it as "an output keying circuit that will work for most negative keyed rigs." Figure 22.43(A) shows a similar arrangement for keying at TTL levels and labels it "NEGATIVE KEYING." Unless I'm missing something here, I believe they have it backwards. The NPN arrangement, as shown in Figure 22.42, is what I'm using to key my positive-key-line rigs.

So anyway, it's the beginning of a brand new era here at WB3GCK. All I have to do now is learn to use this thing. If you hear someone calling CQ with the callsign "!@#\$\$%", give a call; it's probably me playing with my new keyer. :-)

73, Craig WB3GCK

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 05:03:07 1995
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 02:29:15 +0000
From: Chris Doherty <doherty@lydian.scranton.com>
Subject: Re: Hamcalc
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9501210253.B13686-0100000@lydian.scranton.com>

On 20 Jan 1995 GFriedla@griprod2.gri.org wrote:

> I am having trouble running Hamcalc9 on my pc. I keep getting "error 76 in
> line 420." I can run each individual program if I load them in basic
> separately.
>
> I think the problem may relate to a required subdirectory organization. But
> those I've tried have failed.
>
> Has someone been successful in getting this program to run correctly? Can
> you tell me your secret? Thank you.
>
> 73, WD9HDM
> Gary Friedlander (gfriedla@gri.org)
>

In order for Hamcalc9 to run, the file ham.bat MUST be in the root directory. It is from this batch file that gwbasic is called and the batch process looks for the directories Data, Docfiles, Index, and Bas. If ham.bat is in any other directory, the program won't run. My root directory is lean. The only files it contained was autoexec.bat and config.sys. Everything else is a directory listing - until now. It was either put ham.bat into the root or change a whole bunch of lines within the hamcalc program. Follow the installation procedure exactly as stated. I hope this answers your question and is the solution to your

problem.

73, no ticket yet, my goal is novice in '95
Chris Doherty

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 16:13:16 1995
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 11:35:03 -0600 (CST)
From: Adrian Weiss W0RSP English Department <AWEISS@charlie.usd.edu>
Message-Id: <950121113503.623e@charlie.usd.edu>
Subject: RE: Hamcalc

Hi:

Yes, your problem is probably related to the directory structure. You missed a previous hint posting as to how to install HAMCALC9.ZIP. You MUST use the "-d" modifier to create the correct directory structure without which the programs won't work

Another guy gave the most practical hint. : (1) put the HAMCALC9.ZIP file in C:\TEMP or some such directory;
(2) put a formatted 1.44M disk in the floppy drive;
(3) "PKUNZIP C:\TEMP\HAMCAL9.ZIP A: -d". Step 3 unzips the suite to the floppy disk. The same procedure should work for installing directly to the harddrive but I'm not sure if the INSTALL.BAT creates the directory structure or not.

I use XTGOLD which makes it easy to re-create the directory structure of the floppy on the harddrive. Then it is a simple matter of tagging each sub-dir and copying.

Actually, the floppy runs fairly fast for the shorter calc programs. The Great Circle Bearing pgm has a large database of lat/long locations and takes a while to load.

Incidentally, my thanks to whoever informed us all of this suite of programs! And especially to VE3ERP whom we should somehow recognize.

73, Ade W0RSP

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 04:35:59 1995
From: Cooktk@aol.com
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 02:01:42 -0500
Message-Id: <950120232034_272433@aol.com>
Subject: HW-16 QRP MODS

A few weeks ago there were some postings about modifying the HW-16 for qrp and I think there were some other mods for increasing rx sensitivity. A friend of mine would like to do some of those mods to his HW-16. If someone still has those mods would they please send them to me... thanks
Tim NZ8J

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Jan 22 00:09:58 1995
Subject: meeting N00CT in SoCal
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 17:26:14 -0800
From: Clark Savage Turner WA3JPG <turner@safety.ICS.UCI.EDU>
Message-Id: <9501211727.aa24175@binky.ics.uci.edu>

Hi Gang -

Had a good meeting with Jim, N00CT last night. He came here to SoCal on business, and we had the evening to swap (lies) qrp tales and show off equipment. The most fun of the evening was when we were making fun of Ernie, W8MVN, and his good signals. After we jealously laughed about his big loop antennas, my radio cracked alive (40 meters seemed dead, but I left my radio monitoring about 7040) with a "CQ". It was "S5", pretty good. Yeah, you guessed it, it was W8MVN. I tried to call him back, but my antenna farm is tiny compared to his, so no dice.

The tuner Jim brought was pretty nice, and his 7020 transmitter in a can was wonderful. Of course, he left coveting my NorCal 40 :-). .

72

Clark
WA3JPG

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 02:26:41 1995
Date: Fri, 20 Jan 1995 22:56:49 -0500 (EST)
From: Michael Marmor <mmarmor@pluto.njcc.com>
Subject: NC40A
Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950120225508.26012B-100000@pluto.njcc.com>

>
>From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
>Subject: NorCal 40 A: It's Alive!
>
>Things are looking good for the NorCal 40A. I got the boards, summoned the
>courage to peek at it at arms' length, and--whoa!--Davila comes through
>again! These boards are the best I've ever seen. I spec'ed green
>silkscreen this time and put the ground plane on the top where it belongs,
>so this board looks a little more conventional than the Sierra main board.
>

I recently joined NorCal but have not received any info about the NorCal 40A. I have picked up bits and pieces of info about it from qrp-l messages but want to know more. Can anyone e-mail me some info about it? Is it a DC or a superhet receiver? Cost etc...

>Still some 40 kits left; call Jim Cates at 916-487-3580.

Maybe there is still time get one?

Michael, AA2UJ
mmarmor@pluto.njcc.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Jan 22 01:12:31 1995
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 17:22:52 -1000
Message-Id: <199501220322.RAA17133@mango.aloha.com>
From: beltrani@aloha.com (Paul Beltrani)
Subject: need help, Sierra 40m module

I have a problem with the 40m band module for my NorCal Sierra, and was hoping the list might be able to point me in the right direction.

Although the signal out of the Tx mixer appears fine, there is almost nothing into the buffer. (Yes, I adjusted C33 & C36.) I made the following comparisons with a scope and my working 20m module.

	20m module	40m module
U8 pin 5	1.2v	1.1v
J5 pin 16	.58v	125mv
Q5 gate	.4v	80mv
Q5 source	1.6v	180mv

I've double checked L3 and L4 and they are OK. Before I replace the caps in that section, is there something more appropriate I should check?

- Paul Beltrani

beltrani@aloha.com
n2kzz@nh6yw.hi.usa.oc Amateur Radio Packet

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 21:50:44 1995
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 17:19:44 -0600 (CST)
From: Jeff Gold <JMG@tntech.edu>
Subject: Oak Hills Explorer
Message-Id: <01HM46JIJEMQCMHQ84@tntech.edu>

All,

well got the explorer finished Friday PM. Really took my time, but it went together fairly quickly anyway.

The tune up went great.. didn't even blow up one component. I do the VFO tuning a little differently than the instructions.. in the instructions.. calls for you playing with the adjustments to get it calibrated from 0-100, first I never use above 14.070 for CW, and if possible I like the analog dial to be fairly accurate. well i just followed the same procedure, but used from 14.000 to 14.070. I find I can get the dial reading much more accurate.. in fact the Explorer is right on the money.. very accurate. Everything went extremely well during the alignment.. didn't take very long... and results were exactly as stated in the instructions.

I love the keying, the sidetone is great, the rig sounds really sweet when I listened on my Omni, the receiver is GREAT (in my opinion) .. VERY quiet, seems very sensitive and selective.

Heard a weak station.. called him, he came back first call.. a CT3? I know it was the Madiera island in Portugal.. next a California station for a long QSO.. and having a great time with it. I like the size of the rig.. bigger than the norcal.. but about the same size as the Gary Breed.. the way it works kinda reminds me of the Norcal (love my norcal 40 and use it all the time.. just enjoy operating it).. well already feel the same way about the Explorer.. I can say with out any question it is the best beginners (or inexpensive) kit I have come across .. by far.. the parts instructions, and operation along with a now sale price of \$119.. make it a great buy.. I loved both building it and operating it.. kinds feel a little sad.. found it help relax me with a very busy schedule.. and loved the time I spent on it.. absolutely no problems.. just a joy to build.

* I am in no way associated with Oak Hills Research, except I admire the way they do business and find it rare to get what you get for the money he is currently charging.

well gotta go and try one more QSO before the band goes.

73,72

Jeff, AC4HF

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 02:12:35 1995
Date: Fri, 20 Jan 1995 22:55:04 -0500 (EST)

From: Michael Marmor <mmarmor@pluto.njcc.com>

Subject: OHR WM-1

Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950120225413.26012A-1000000@pluto.njcc.com>

My WM-1 meter kit arrived a few days ago from OHR. I talked to Dick on the phone for a few minutes. I asked him how the meter would work on 12V (it is normally run off a 9V battery) and was told that it would work fine. Dick suggested that I install a switch that would let me switch between the 9V battery and an external jack for 12V. Apparently the meter does not need to be aligned differently for use at 9V or 12V and switching between them does not effect alignment. He also told me that future versions of the WM-1 might include the external jack and switch. I was planning on using an LM317 to provide 9V to the meter from my 13.8V supply, but was told this was unnecessary.

I would like to use a diode to protect the meter if the 12V polarity is reversed. How should I connect the diode and what type should I use? (Is it better to use the diode to shunt the current to ground and blow the fuse -- or use the diode to block the voltage going in the wrong direction?)

The weekend is here!! Time to start building!

Michael, AA2UJ

mmarmor@pluto.njcc.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 11:31:22 1995

From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)

Subject: Re: OHR WM-1

Date: Sat, 21 Jan 95 08:51:03 EST5EDT

Message-Id: <1995Jan21.085103.12573@wb3ffv.ampr.org>

Interestingly, the Jan 95 issue of the QRP Quarterly, just out, contains an article by Larry East, W1HUE, on the OHR WM-1 and it includes what you talked about in your posting, a simple circuit with 78L09 regulator and switch, to allow use of the internal battery as well as external DC source. (It also contained a modification to allow it to read peak power on SSB.) As time goes on, I get the impression more and more that the majority of the folks on qrp-l do NOT get the QRP Quarterly :-)

73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org

E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org

The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA

Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 20:32:53 1995

Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 17:02:49 -0500 (EST)

From: Wynn C C <wyn@stc06.CTD.ORNL.GOV>
Subject: OHR WM-1
Message-Id: <Pine.OSF.3.91.950121164800.7156A-100000@stc06.CTD.ORNL.GOV>

Michael,

before you start constructing you may want to include the W1HUE mods to the kit. There is an unused op amp that, with just a few tweaks, can turn the unit into a peak reading wattmeter, just the thing for QRP SSB. I included the mods before starting on the kit construction. It saved some hassle in undoing some initial construction, otherwise. The mods work great. There are two modification articles that I am aware of. One is in the NORCAL QRPp Quarterly Dec. 94. The other is in the ARCI QRP Quarterly Jan. 95. The stock unit is good. The unit with the modifications is great. The 1.5 ma red LED "on" indicator is available from Radio Shack. In fact all of the modification parts are available there. RS is just convenient, not cheap.

72/73

Clay N4AOX
wyn@ornl.gov

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 13:25:06 1995
Subject: Returned mail: User unkno
From: brian.carling@acenet.com (Brian Carling)
Message-Id: <2a6.8029.500@acenet.com>
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 08:32:00 -0500

>From: brian.carling@acenet.com

MDS>PT>HMMMMM... multiply the point score by the number of bands, the number of
MDS>mod

MDS>PT>worked within the band and the number of stations operated from? That co
MDS>PT>a fun contest! Maybe separate awards for stations that had the most
MDS>guest PT>operators to encourage the doors to open? Given the
MDS>honorable-ness of PT>Elmering, PT>I think I'd be proud to have a
MDS>certificate in my shack that said I had the PT>most guest operators in
MDS>my section for a "New Operator's Roundup."

MDS>PT>What do you think? New-Op Roundup? One weekend? (I think one of the bigg
MDS>PT>things going against the Novice Roundup is the length.) Participation pi
MDS>f

MDS>PT>operators for 25 contacts and hosting stations for 10 operators?

MDS>PT>Will it fly?

MDS>Great ideas. Why not write in to ARRL with them. Of course, I think they
MDS>should get 5 points per CW contact, 2 for another digital mode,
MDS>and one point for SSB.

MDS>---

MDS> ~ SLMR 2.1a ~ You ARE what you think about all day long!

~ SLMR 2.1a ~ You ARE what you think about all day long!

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 03:16:22 1995
Date: Fri, 20 Jan 1995 22:16:40 -0700 (MST)
From: Richard Kendrick <rrk@ramp.com>
Subject: Ten Tec Argo 556
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9501202200.A1040-01000000@taz.ramp.com>

Does anybody have any experience with the Argo 556, the little brother of the Scout? I received my QST today and saw the full page advertisement (I'd seen it before and blew it off) and this time my eye caught the header "Attention QRP Enthusiasts". Well, the price and size looks real attractive to me; a nice tiny all band rig just right for qrp. What are your experiences with this rig?

Richard Kendrick CET WA7TWI		
Amateur Radio Extra Class		Do not adjust your mind, there is
QRP #4129/G-QRP #8591/MI-QRP #M-1412		a fault in reality.
Phoenix, AZ email: rrk@ramp.com		

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 13:38:57 1995
From: NYOUNG@nova.wright.edu
Date: Sat, 21 Jan 1995 11:18:50 -0400 (EDT)
Subject: Re: Ten Tec Argo 556
Message-Id: <01HM3U0I7S428WWLC2@nova.wright.edu>

Funny thing about the 556 or Argo or whatever they're calling it: It's about \$60-\$70 cheaper than the high-power "brother." Now, if the advert is right and you can push the QRO box down to 5 watts (and unless you are dedicated to QRPP), for the extra cash you can have a moderate level of just-in-case power. And considering that the same band modules work in each unit (if I read the SPRAT article on the "Cub" right), I'd just as soon spend the extra cash.

What really croaks my frog is the simple fact that the ARGO 556 (or whatever) is just what most QRP loonies are looking for. A radio that does QRP without paying for a GCR and a bunch of push buttons. They (Ten Tec) could've done that up front, seems

to me.

Oh well, I ain't the engineer and I sure ain't the sales department and I don't have a corporate hierarchy to support and I just like to play radios now and then. But I am trying to save. I wanna check this out at Dayton. Who knows, maybe I'll get one or the other. Depends on who's givin' the best break on the price. (And I don't expect much with a starting price of nearly \$500. And comparing that to the QRP-1, I'd have to see 'em both first.... although my attitude is to go with the TT rig... And... aren't these little ratiocinations beginning to sound like the Edgar Allan Poe look-alike contest? "I'd give up the drugs but it helps me write poetry." "This ain't hurtin' nobody. I just teach. It's rough getting them involved in the text." [Ooooh, that last one sounds like Derrida. "As Derrida so clearly states..."])

73

Nils

WB8IJN &c

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 06:48:22 1995

Date: Fri, 20 Jan 1995 23:00:01 -1000 (HST)

From: Jeffrey Herman <jeffrey@math.hawaii.edu>

Subject: RE: VFO Drift

Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950120224525.16349B-100000@kahuna>

One other source of VFO drift might come from the torque applied to a component while soldering, i.e., you solder one lead, then bend the other lead to where you want it soldered. It seems the component takes a bit of time to 'relax' to its final permanent shape. Drift due to torque is particularly a problem with regard to trimmer capacitors; I mistakenly used a mica compression trimmer and it took over a half day for it to finally settle down. But even the bodies of non-compression trimmers will need some time to find their relaxed state after each adjustment.

With over a dozen factors contributing to VFO drift it really says something of those designers & builders who are able to create a stable VFO.

Jeff NH6IL (crystalled on 3579, 7057, and 10140 kc, and a wandering VFO someone on 40M)

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 13:30:45 1995

Date: Sat, 21 Jan 95 09:33:30 -0600

From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)

Message-Id: <9501211533.AA04694@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Subject: Vibroplex Paddle

Gang,

I finally figured out what all the fuss was about. You see I already owned a Vibroplex Iambic Paddle, but I really didn't like it as much as the Bencher Paddle. Let me explain.

I own an old Vibroplex Presentation Model (Chrome with jeweled bearings and Red Knob) which I keep in a case for sentimental reasons. My first bug and all that..... I don't have the original caring case.

I also own a Vibroplex Dual Paddle Iambic Paddle and everytime someone posted something about the Vibroplex Iambic Paddle I associated the post with this paddle. This paddle has the two 4 7/8" arms including the black plastic thingies (can't think of the word for these for some reason, is there one?).

I just got back for CA and while out there I ran by HRO in Sunnyvale and while there I bought a new Vibroplex Brass Racer Iambic Paddle. I guess this is the one that everyone has been talking about.

I think that this one will become my favorite over the Bencher. I can finally get the adjustment in tension where I want it with the magnetic adjustment of tension, it is perfect for what I want. And, if my memory serves me correctly, it is probably cheaper than all the others except for the MFJ Chrome ditty. Take the Vibroplex over the MFJ anyday is my advice.

I know it isn't QRP, but you use a key and this is the one I recommend. I like it even better than the Kent or the G4ZPY (which I can't get sensitive enough on the adjustments).

It is rather interesting that all this occurred at the time that the new owner of Vibroplex posted to this group. It is purely coincidence. I don't get any rewards for this posting, just another satisfied customer. My next straight key is going to be a Shurr mobile key, the smaller one. It is a beauty, but \$200 is just a little much for my budget right now. :-)

dit dit

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sat Jan 21 03:03:31 1995
Date: Fri, 20 Jan 1995 22:37:39 -0800 (PST)
From: "Mitch, WA4OSR" <fmitch@netcom.com>
Subject: WANTED: Vibroplex items
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9501202232.A22785-0100000@netcom>

WANTED: Artifacts, memorabilia, early keys and/or any historical data, correspondence or information relating to the Vibroplex Company.

Unfortunately, vibroplex had *NO* collection of keys that it had manufactured over the years when i bought the company last year... my modest collection is now the company collection i hope to build a collection that is representative of all of the keys that the company has manufactured over the years... after all, vibroplex is a part of history, and it needs to be preserved...

i appreciate any help you can give vibroplex in preserving its heritage...

mitch
wa4osr

Please contact: Mitch Mitchell, WA4OSR, c/o The Vibroplex Company, 11 Midtown Park, E., Mobile, AL 36606-4141, FAX 1-334-476-0465, or call 1-800-840-8873.

* * * The *FIRST HAM OWNER* of The Vibroplex Co., Inc. * * *

Email: fmitchell@rd.qms.com or, second choice, fmitch@netcom.com
Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, WA4OSR, 11 Midtown Park, E., Mobile, AL 36606 USA
334-478-8873 Vibroplex, 334-342-7259 home, 334-476-0465 FAX
co-sysop for W4IAX bbs running fbb ... sysop for WA4OSR DXCluster in Mobile..
